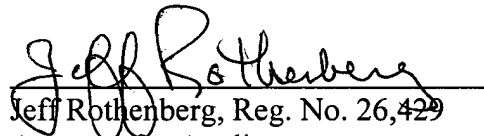


REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, a cross-reference to related applications, section headings and an Abstract of the Disclosure are being added to the specification. The claims are being amended to conform with U.S. practice. More specifically, reference numbers are being deleted from the claims, "wherein" is being substituted for the European introductory phrase "characterized in that" and the claims otherwise modified to ensure clear antecedent basis. The substance of these claims remains the same. The addition of "new matter" has been scrupulously avoided. Claims 1-9 remain in this case.

Favorable consideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeff Rothenberg, Reg. No. 26,429  
Attorney for Applicant

Dated: Dec. 14, 2005

Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti P.C.  
5 Columbia Circle  
Albany, NY 12203  
Tel: 518-452-5600  
Fax: 518-452-5579  
E-mail: jr@hrfmlaw.com